

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 VIENNA 02635 271609Z

43

ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 PPTE-00 SCA-01 ISO-00 /002 W

----- 007396

P 271438Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5212

UNCLAS VIENNA 2635

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: CDES, AU (SZEMERE, PETER)

SUBJ: REPORTED DEATH OF SZEMERE

REF: STATE 067155

1. FOLLOWING INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM LOCAL POLICE AND INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL: ON JANUARY 27, MALE PERSON CHECKED IN INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL AS GEORGE P. VANHOFE, SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL, BORN JUNE 16, 1944, RESIDING 18-19 ORANGE CREEK ROAD, JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA.

2. SAME PERSON FOUND DEAD IN HIS HOTEL ROOM JANUARY 30, 3 P.M. ACCORDING POLICE PHYSICIAN DEATH OCCURRED ABOUT 16 HOURS EARLIER. SUBSEQUENT AUTOPSY REVEALED DEATH CAUSED BY OVERDOSE OF SLEEPING PILLS IN CONNECTION WITH INGESTION ALCOHOL. EXPERT VIENNA INSTITUTE FORENSIC MEDICINE CONSIDERED DEATH ACCIDENTAL, AS OVERDOSE OF SLEEPING PILLS (THREE PERDORMAL TABLETS) NOT FATAL, BUT ONLY IN CONNECTION WITH DRINKING UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.

3. NO PASSPORT OR OTHER IDENTIFICATION FOUND WITH REMAINS. LABELS IN HIS TWO SUITS REMOVED. BRIEFCASE CONTAINED 110 SOUTH AFRICAN RANDS, 110 U.S. DOLLARS, AND 460 AUSTRIAN SCHILLINGS. ALL PERSONAL EFFECTS INCLUDING WRIST WATCH, ONE SUTICASE AND ONE TRAVEL BAG IN CUSTODY OF VIENNA POLICE.

4. SOUTH AFRICAN EMBASSY VIENNA INFORMED LOCAL POLICE
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 VIENNA 02635 271609Z

MAN BY THAT NAME NEVER ISSUED SOUTH AFRICAN PASSPORT.

5. DECEASED SUBSEQUENTLY IDENTIFIED THROUGH FINGERPRINTS BY INTERPOL CENTRAL OFFICE, PARIS, FRANCE, AS PETER GYOERGY SZEMERE, BORN MAY 17, 1946 MONSONMAGYAROVAR, HUNGARY. INTERPOL HAD HIS FINGERPRINTS ON FILE BASIS ARREST IN SWEDEN ON OCTOBER 12, 1966, FOR TRAVELLING WITH STOLEN SWISS PASSPORT IN NAME OF OSKAR BASS.

6. VIENNA POLICE MOST INTERESTED IN SZEMERE'S BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF TRIP TO VIENNA. THEY WILL HAVE REUBEN WEISS QUESTIONED THROUGH INTERPOL.

7. UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES EMBASSY RELUCTANT INFORM WEISS OF ANY DETAILS IN VIEW OF ONGOING POLICE INVESTIGATION AND POSSIBLE IMPLICATION OF WEISS IN DECEASED'S SUSPECTED ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES.

8. DEPARTMENT REQUESTED INFORM EMBASSY ANY US PASSPORT DATA OF SZEMERE AND NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF ANY KNOWN NOK. TRINKA

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975VIENNA02635
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750107-0610
From: VIENNA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975037/aaaaagrb.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SCSE
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 067155
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 JUN 2003 by RuthemTJ>; WITHDRAWN <02 MAR 2004 by hartledg, PRIVACY>; RELEASED <02 MAR 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <02 MAR 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REPORTED DEATH OF SZEMERE
TAGS: CDES, AU, (SZEMERE, PETER)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006